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# WHITTLESEA FARM COMPLEX FORD RUINS

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## Location

8-32 PATULLOS LANE CRAIGIEBURN AND 695 CRAIGIEBURN ROAD WOLLERT, HUME CITY,  
WHITTLESEA CITY

## Municipality

HUME CITY

WHITTLESEA CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0068

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 6, 2010

Data has been updated as a result of the Outer Western Metro Project, Context, March 2010.

### Interpretation of Site

The site comprises a ford c.25m long and c.10m wide crossing Merri Creek roughly halfway between Craigieburn Road and Somerton Road. The ford is constructed of large boulders, up to a metre in diameter, built up to one metre above the creeks normal water level. Originally the interstices between the boulders would have been filled with smaller material but, in the absence of maintenance, this has now been washed away.

A collection of rocks on the northern approach to the ford may relate to a small structure or stock enclosure at this end (the area of 'hand laid' (?) stone recorded on the 1989 site card was not located), whilst a small quarry to the west of the ford probably provided some of the stone used in its construction.

Archaeological  
Significance

A terraced area to north east of the ford, on the east bank of the creek, could have accommodated temporary camps. However, the main approach to the ford was from the south, and the site would appear to be directly related to farming complex Whittlesea Farm Complex Site (H7822-0067), 200 metres to the east, as was the conclusion of the Merri Creek Parklands survey of 1989. Drystone walls relating to this site commence at the top of the escarpment to the east of the ford.

The ford may retain artefacts that may provide information as to the date of its construction and use.

Historical  
Significance

The site is of historical significance as the largest and best known ford across Merri Creek, a major obstacle encountered by early settlers in the region. The ford is related to the highly significant Whittlesea Farm Complex Site (H7822-0067) (on the Whittlesea side of the creek - 200 metres to the east of the site) comprising the remains of a complete mid to late 19th century stone farmstead.

Other Names WHITTLESEA 4A,

Hermes Number 8714

Property  
Number

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## History

The site is part of a mid to late 19th century farming complex previously identified by Hall in his 1989 Merri Creek Parklands survey - Whittlesea Farm Complex (H7822-0067), 200 metres to the east. Hall suggested that many extant elements of the complex were constructed using locally gathered materials, while small quarry holes from which stones for the ford had been collected were still visible on the property. (Hall 1989: 52-55) According to Wuchatsch (1985: 59) and Payne (1975: 73) many early settlers in the Whittlesea area, particularly German immigrants, deliberately chose stony land so that building materials would be readily available.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*